

THE JUNK BOX

XX

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XX

MEDALS GALORE & GLORIOUS

Our organizations, whether the national, or here in Michigan, or in some other area, are called TAMS. This is short for Token and Medal Society. Much coverage in TAMS PUBLICATIONS, and so much concentration by collectors, is given to the tokens. This is rightly so because there are so many phases of tokens one may pursue, so many more issued for every conceivable reason, and more readily available for collection and study.

But what about the medals? Occasionally we read a good article about a certain medal, or some group of medals, but very little about medals in general. Less is known as they are not seen as often. Not as many reference books are readily available. Both numismatists and non-collectors are less informed. These items of history are heavier and bulkier to carry around, more difficult to house in a collection, and usually more costly per each for a starter collection. Mintages were usually lower, often only 500 or 1000, of each. When mintage and trading value are unknown, a collector hesitates to spend his money.

However, these medals are around. A dealer's case will sometimes have one tucked in a corner or as a centerpiece to attract. Many a writing desk has a heavy one as a paperweight. Private citizens may have one or two set back in some box on some shelf. A few more seem to appear now that the Bicentennial themes bring out many historical items. And the private mints are going great guns now with the making of many issues in their beautiful bronze, silver, and gold. They truly are great works of art, and require the handiwork of great sculptors. For the rich pocketbook they are great. Or a collector not so rich can choose from many and get a certain one or two to suit his or her fancy.

And what about the Medals from the United States Mint? Many are still available, even some issued many years ago, and at only a few dollars each. Or at least they were, many at \$3.00 each, according to this beautiful book illustrating them which was put out in 1969 under the direction of Eva Adams, Director of the Mint. An example of the medals listed therein is this beautiful, like new, #618 with obverse portraying in high relief, President James Buchanan. This piece weighs more than half a pound, is 78mm bronze, designed by F. Paquet. The obverse is identical to the #115, but the #115 is dated 1857. No date is on the #618, but the #618 reverse is most historical. It portrays Frederick Henry Rose, Asst Surgeon of the British Royal Navy, honoring him for "kindness and humanity" to officers and men aboard the U.S. Steamer Susquehanna "on her late arrival (in Jamaica) with yellow fever on board."

The words metal and mettle are involved with medals. Also the words medallion and medalet. A medallion seems to mean a large medal, (cont'd page 3)

MEDALS (from page 1)

and a medalet a small medal, but how large does a medal have to be to be a medallion, and how small to be a medalet?

Most medals are round, and a great many of these are silver-dollar size. A popular reference book, So-Called Dollars by Hibler & Kappen lists most of the medals in this collecting area from our U.S. Semi-Centennial in 1826 until 1963. Bronze and silver, a few in brass, and many before 1900 when aluminum was "new, are most of the medallic metals used. Pewter, white metal, and Dowmetal from Michigan were also used. But some medals were not even metal. Compressed walnut wood was used for several large medals of our 1876 Centennial, and until 20 years later for other expositions. These were die-struck in high relief into the walnut wood. HANK SPANGENBERGER of Ohio, former Mich-TAMS member, had a detailed article about these wood medals in the Numismatist a few years back. One set of 6 in the original Birdseye View box brought \$225. in a Virginia auction this spring.

Another pair of medals, for the 1876 Centennial, were made of gutta-percha, and are listed as H&K #85 and #86, one black one and one red one. Gutta-percha is the white "concrete" juice of a Malay gum tree. It becomes impressionable at about the boiling point of water. Can you envision pouring boiling water onto your favorite medal and watching it become something else?

MRS LILLIAN SIMON #473 of Lansing states that she has a large compressed walnut medal of the Panama Pacific Exposition. This will date these pieces as still having been made as late as 1915.

The making of the dies for some medals must have been extremely intricate. How much detail can you get on a silver-dollar size medal? If you see an early one in AU or EF condition study it a moment. One example is the white metal H&K #157 of the Columbian Expo in 1893. On the obverse is the whole scene of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, more than appears at the edges of the same scene to be on the reverse of our new two dollar bills. Below this is a large eagle with open spread wings atop a shield. The eagle separates the portraits of Columbus and Washington. On the reverse are two whole scenes. The top half is the Discovery of America in October 1492. The bottom scene is the Landing of the Pilgrims in Dec. 1620.

How many times have we heard the question "So what do you want, a medal?" Many medals were simply awards for accomplishments such as a harness race, some sports, or a Society award. An early copper 39mm medal is called The Bell Medal, shows a tall statue with 4 riflemen below, and states on reverse Presented by the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs. It is British. Some medals were simply issued to stress a cause or organization, such as the large aluminum 52mm 1890 WCTU with portraits of Frances E Willard and Matilda Carse, and on reverse their National Temple in Chicago.

Patriotic obverses with advertising reverses make for ideal keepsake medals. A smaller 32mm bronze bearing John J Pershing and the dates 1917 and 1918 is called, on reverse, Lucky Pocket "Peace" from Portable Machinery Co., Mfgs of the Scoop Conveyor. The town name of Passiac NJ is misspelled.

Sometimes a medal appears to cause a person to go back to his or her history books. This heavy copper 42mm French medal has the busts of Franklin and Montyon, exhibits the date 1833, and gives one the sense of the historical friendship of France and the U.S. Ben Franklin died 43 years before 1833, and in looking up the dates of his life one might be surprised to learn that he was born before George Washington was, and he died before Washington did. Now what about the Frenchman, Montyon? A story there somewhere?

"CHECK BOY" TOKEN

A single brass token, round and 21mm, with CHECK BOY on the obverse and GOOD FOR FIVE CENTS/ 5 /IN TRADE has caused considerable research by some person or persons. With only a rubbing of the token, accompanied by six xerox copies of ads, we have the following information. The "C" in CHECK BOY is a large ornate design with "HECK" inside, and in smaller letters diagonal to the "K" is the word BOY.

This information and rubbing comes to us from CLARENCE ZIEGLER in Port Huron. We would likely have called the machines in which this token was used "slot machines," but nowhere in the ads are they called slot machines. Five of the ads are for the Mills Check Boy (called machine) and one is for Caille's Check Boy. Mr. Ziegler writes "there's no way to tell which company used this token."

Both Caille's and Mills were oak cabinets with nickel plated fronts both designed to get more money from the players, either nickels or checks could by using any one of six slots be dropped in but rewards paid back only in checks, which could be used again and again. Both cost \$60, later the Mills cost \$65.00 (FOB Chicago) or with gum vender \$75.00. The Caille shipped at 64 lbs, the Mills with gum and 1000 checks up to 100 lbs. The Mills was also called a Miniature Dewey, and others in the ads were called Caille's Big Star Six and The 1918 Operator's Bell.

NEW WOODEN NICKELS

Last fall a contest for Michigan Young Numismatists was instituted by Florence Schook, MSNS Secretary and Chairlady of the ANA Young Numismatists, to design a wooden nickel for this spring's state convention in Kalamazoo. Proceeds from the sale of these wood pieces will go to the Mich Young Numismatists. The project was funded by Honorary Life Member Joe Overstreet of Saginaw.

Two winners emerged, a tie for first place, so now we shall have 2 new wooden nickels. Bill Ewald of Birmingham and Peter Weiss of Southfield are the winning designers.

Persons not attending the Kalamazoo state show may acquire the pair of new woodnics from MSNS Secretary, PO Box 2014, Livonia Mich 48154, by sending 50¢ and self addressed stamped envelope.

WHAT WE COLLECT

More members have sent in their Collecting Interest Survey slips.

ALBERT BOBROFSKY, 1302 Lakeview Ave. No. 33, Battle Creek Mich 49015. Lincoln tokens and medals, sports medals.

PAUL W JENSEN, PO Box 271, Ft Thomas Ky 41075. Coal and lumber tokens from all states.

N R MACK, PO Box 395, Goose Creek SC 29445. Wooden money.

DONALD R McKELVEY, 2822 - 19th Ave, Port Huron Mich 48060. Michigan tokens & medals only, especially transportation, parking, car wash.

TID-BITS

Pinbacks of early aviation are occasionally seen in collections but are not common. One 1½" button portrays all three pilots of WW I -- VonHuenfeld, the Irish hero Fitzmaurice, and Koehl. There must be a story there. And a red, white, and blue 1½" button has a picture of Howard Hughes with the words "around the world in 4 days." Actually history records his 1937 flight as 3 days, 19 hours, and 8 minutes.

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MICH-TAMS #371

Paid Adv.

HOG IN A CORNFIELD

If you were going to find a dollar-size medal with a medal detector, and you were scanning the ground in a cornfield, what dolla would be appropriate for you to find? Well, a hog dollar of course. At a coin show this spring a young man from Fowlerville Mich got three offers, of \$3-\$5-\$10, on a "coin" he had dug up in a cornfield in May of 1972. The young man is Mike Hayes. His find is a Sumner Island "Amsterdam" dollar with a hog on the obverse. Marie Johnson gave us the info as to what it is. It showed signs of having been in the soil but still in good condition. Looked like C/N.

More information on certain tokens which our members tell us are ROBERT L WILLIAMS #209 wrote about the S.F.F. Georgetown halfpenny token (page 4 last Junk Box) -- "I have also seen them in the one penny denomination. It is my understanding that this is from Scotland. At least it is attributed as such by collectors I've contacted."

DON STEWART #182 up in Alberta says "re the Digger Tokens -- in Canada we have many used in more than one province and usually list them at the start of each province under the heading "General" meaning found elsewhere too."

ATHEL RASMUSSEN #371 in Royal Oak had another CLOWN token in her trading book. This one was 18mm nickel, CLOWN on obverse, large number 2 on reverse, and a memo on the 2x2 holder said TAMS maverick #1833 Feb 1971 vol II.

A Mich CIVIL WAR STORECARD token, page 434 in the new CW Storecard book, is Mussey Township, St Clair Co, not Ohio as once believed.

MORE NEWAYGO COUNTY TOKENS
by Terry Wantz #138

After my initial listing in the last issue I received a letter from Raymond Olson informing me of other Newaygo County tokens:

Redeemed at/City/Bakery/I.E.Brown/Prop./Fremont Mich. Alum 29mm
Fanitorium/Fremont// 5¢. Brass, center hole.
McCallum Bros/ 50¢ /Hesperia, Mich.
Parker's Fine Foods/Hesperia, Mich/Good For Cup of Coffee. Woodnic
Bruno Schumacker/Newaygo/Mich// 5¢.
Fremont Junior High School. Light blue plastic.
H. A. Blount/Fremont// 5¢. Aluminum.
Fremont Canning Co./Fremont, Mich// 1. Aluminum.

TEN QUESTIONS

A bronze medal 35mm shows the Mich Masonic Home in Grand Rapids, destroyed by fire Feb 16, 1910. When was this medal issued?

Does anyone know of a JENNINGS, MICH token or medal, smaller than a half dollar, showing a lumberman's saw (the saw edge is sharp)? A man at a coin show mentioned having one "at home."

Fraternal Societies listed in the encyclopedia include Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR token - lot 64 in our Oct auction), the Order of Owls (like the Johnson City Ill bi-metal token of Nest 1238), but what is known about the Improved Order of Red Men?

A silver dollar size, sterling silver, portraying Ernest Henry Gruening, Alaska "dollar" was issued in 1959. What is it worth?

A story a year or two ago in the Junk Box told of a John Brown token depicting the Harpers Ferry bit of history! Was John Brown a white man or a black man?

An early 1 1/4" pinback in black, red, and yellow stripe says Glad/U/Kum, with letters KTOM. Probably Knights Templar of Mich, but when and in what city was it issued?

Raymond's Place, Choice Cigars & Tobacco, 5¢-10¢-25¢ brass good-fors, mavericks, believed to be Howell Mich. Does anyone know?

Fogarty Cigar Store, white print on 31mm red plastic, with memo on 2x2 holder as being Bay City Mich 1925, bought by PETE HARTLEY recently. Does Pete or anyone know for sure it is from Bay City?

The Big Lincoln Penny, minted in Sudbury Ontario in 1965, or with a 1965 date on the penny (cent), bears the tiny letters in the reverse "TS-DC-ER." What do these mean?

Does anyone have any dates of scheduled upcoming events where one might find future collectibles - centennials, celebrations, etc.? None have come in. Your editor knows only of three in 1976 for Livingston County: July 4th a big day in Gregory, the Annual Melon Festival in Howell August 21, and a brand new Green Oak Township Day by that new township historical society in the Brighton - South Lyon area, Aug 21st.

SO WHAT'S IT WORTH

The almost always expected question by anyone inquiring about any piece of exonomia is what is it worth. The value is in the eyes of the beholder. Value by a collector who prizes an item may differ from the price realized. PAUL CUNNINGHAM of Tecumseh in his Feb 29th mailbid auction sold a ku klux klan, 1907 Indian cent, for \$17.77. The rare OPA red point token MV brought \$76.00, a trans token SD 370A brought \$62.95, and a Masonic emblem on a holed 1853 quarter brought \$10.50. Last fall in Va an MS&NIRR Mich cordwood token brought \$36.00.

MICH-TAMS MAIL BID #5

Closing date May 8. Mail your bids to editor, Chester Clark.

Lot

- 1 Trans tokens 5 diff, Grand Rapids, Washington DC, Shenango Valley, IL #150-T, NY Transit.
- 2 Trans tokens 5 diff, Honolulu 1924, Coral Gables Fla, Kingston NY, NY Transit Auth, Midwest Transit.
- 3 Trans tokens 5 diff, W Virginia, DC Transit, Lodi, Pittsburgh 1922, PA #605-K.
- 4 Trans tokens 5 diff, Coral Gables Fla, Toledo OH, Schuylkill Valley, Midwest, Washington DC.
- 5 Trans tokens 5 diff, Ontario Canada, Lima OH, Louisville KY, Benton Harbor MI, Schuylkill Valley.
- 6 Grand Rapids MI early token, Staple Wire/for/ONE G.T. GROSS/used in/ELLIOTT/button fastener/machine. Copper 28mm, min bid \$2.
- 7 Encased Lincoln cent BU 1971D in alum horseshoe, Blue Water Int. Coin Show, Port Huron, May/71.
- 8 Century of Progress 1933, Mich piece made of Downmetal, same obv & rev as HK 473, 33mm, some luster, min bid \$3.
- 9 Big Red Marching Band/Olympic Competition (Indian Head)//Port Huron/19/72/Michigan (map). BU brass 35mm, min \$1.
- 10 Uncle Jack's Good Luck Medal/Action With Purpose/Pep Without Purpose is Piffle//K.V.P./Faith and Enthusiasm make the Goal/Kalamazoo (stars). Brass 32mm, some wear.
- 11 Statue of Liberty/Souvenir Coin (statue)//A Gift From the People of France to the People of the United States Dedicated October 28, 1886. BU brass 32mm, looks modern, min \$1.
- 12 Trade token, Gay & Seeley/122/S.Washington/St./Owosso, Mich//G/F 10¢ in Trade. Unc 25mm alum.
- 13 Sambo's redprint round woodnic, G/F 10¢ coffee, Pontiac Mich.
- 14 First Federal Savings of Detroit/25 Years of Service/1934-1959//Michigan's Largest Savings Assn. BU rd G/N fob 32mm.
- 15 Balloon shape downmetal piece 40 x 65mm, The Piccard Stratosphere Ascension, compliments Dow Chem Co of P 1933, nice, min \$3.
- 16 Holland MI parking token, Downtown, 1972, brass 23mm, min \$1.
- 17 BPOE #753 Owosso MI 33mm 9-scallop alum G/F 20¢, nice, min \$1.
- 18 Michigan 1963 Dog License, Ingham Co #14613, oval, min \$1.
- 19 (Warren IND) 2 pcs alum C.B.Griffith G/F 5¢ 20mm, 10¢ 25mm. min \$2
- 20 R D Stewart, Warren Ind 3 pcs alum, 2 diff G/F 5¢ round, G/F 10¢ octagonal, min \$3.
- 21 W L Kelly, Warren Ind 2 pcs alum, G/F 5¢, G/F 10¢, both 25mm min \$2
- 22 Grand Central One Price Clothing House 142 & 144 State St, Chicago G/F \$1.00, 25mm nickel, rarity R-5 Vacketta Chi G32, min \$1.
- 23 (Chicago IL) 2 pcs, Brevoort Crystal Bar G/F 25¢ encased cardboard 47mm, Brevoort 120 W. Madison St G/F 25¢ alum 25mm, both unlisted Vacketta, both fine, min \$2.
- 24 H E Melhorn, York Pa, Cigars & Tobacco, G/F 5¢ alum, round die struck on sq 20 x 20mm, like new, min \$1.
- 25 Diehl's Drug Store, Mechanicsburg PA, G/F 2¢ on bottle return, 25mm octagonal alum, min \$1.
- 26 Esso I.D. keychain fob with high relief tiger/Put a Tiger in Your Tank. #158607. Dark alloy metal 34mm, like new.
- 27 Apothecary's weight, thick brass 22mm. Two Drachms/3ii.
- 28 Independence Hall/(bldg)/Philadelphia/1776//Silver Anniv./founding of 13th St Store, John Wanamaker/1876-1901. 21mm.
- 29 Pinback button 38mm. I Found My Bag/I'm a Numismatist (bag labelled 50 US cents). Red print on white.
- 30 Elongated JFK cent, 1964D, holed for chain. 35th President/John F Kennedy/United States of America, JFK facing left.

Lot #

- 31 Good Luck Token w/mermaids, Weeki Wachee Spring Fla, 28mm brass.
- 32 Peoples State Bank, McPherson KS, large AU alum token.
- 33 Old Dominion/Crab Co.//One/LB. Trade token 22mm brass.
- 34 Texas Centennial/1936//Souvenir of Texas/1836-1936. Large star. 21mm.
- 35 East Tawas (MI) Centennial 1962 G/F 25¢, brass 31mm, some luster.
- 36 Webberville Area Centennial, Mich, 1971, souvenir half dollar 34mm BU.
- 37 Body by Fisher (early car) 1908-1954, 50 million cars, 32mm AU brass.
- 38 Good Luck Token, The Dells in Wis, boat & scenery, 28mm AU brass.
- 39 Costa Rica Railway trans token, 50 centavos, nickel AU 27mm.
- 40 Trans token, Chi.So.Bend & No.Ind.Ry.Co, star cutout, 23mm, fine.

End of Sale - Bid Now

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED - Mich trans, parking & carwash tokens. Many to trade or will buy. Also Mich centennials to trade, sell. List your wants. Don McKelvey, 2822-19th Ave, Port Huron MI 48060.

WANTED - By new collector, info on available books on Mich trade & centennial tokens, Cracker Jack presidential, tax tokens, and military tokens. Edward Bawdon, 2046 Acton NW, Grand Rapids MI 49504.

WANTED - All types of wooden money. N R Mack, PO Box 395, Goose Creek, SC 29445.

WANTED - My collection starving for Mich trade tokens. Describe & price any you have for sale. Clarence Ziegler, 2705 Grace Rd, Port Huron MI 48060.

WANTED - Centennial piece of Marion Ohio in 1922, by steam shovel company showing portraits of Warren Harding and Eber Baker. Chester Clark, 3367 Jewell Rd, Howell MI 48843.

FOR SALE - Canadian wooden money, broomstick size, large thick silver dollar size, rectangles. Unofficial spruce dollar, \$2.00. Victor B. Hall, 453 Emery St E, London Ontario N6C 2E6.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mich-TAMS members, think on these things. President Don McKelvey is asking for a good attendance at our annual spring meet at the MSNS state show in Kalamazoo on Saturday April 24th. A sizeable display of exhibits in all categories, indeed in the tokens & medals classes also.

Don also wishes to remind us that in the fall we shall have election of Mich-TAMS officers, and says this should be perhaps a call for some new blood in the organization. We do have quite a few newer members to choose from.

Make your plans now also to attend the annual summer lawn picnic and course, on Sunday July 25, at the farm home of Marie and Bill Johnson near Clinton Mich. This will be the sixth one, and I'm sure you'll be glad you came. Gather there at 9:30 to 10:00 AM.

A recent suggestion by WILLIAM J JOHNSON #446 of Pontiac is a good one. He asks that we put in the Junk Box the address of national TAMS. The Secretary of TAMS is Dorothy C Baber, 611 Oakwood Way, El Cajon, Calif 92021. Dues are \$6.00 annually. TAMS Librarian is Irene Alexander, ~~xxxxxxx~~ PO Box 11555, Parkwater Sta, Spokane WA 99211. Our national president, and our Mich-TAMS charter member #64, is Dottie Dow, Box 5238, Phoenix AZ 85010.

And our Bicentennial. Never will more events be taking place than in the next few months -- special celebrations, special issues of items for collectors, special historical data coming to light. And in a presidential election year too. Let your editor know of anything you now